

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 111825Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECDEF WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1404

SECDEF FOR ISA, ODDR&E

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: NATO ATTENDNACE AT 1977 DOD-AOC ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYMPOSIUM

REF: (A) USNATO 1333 (DTG 091807Z MAR 77), (B) SECDEF MEMO,
24 NOV 71, NATO ELECTRONIC-WARFARE POLICY, (C) ISA MEMO,
18 PAR 72, POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRONOC-
WARFARE CAPABILITY TO NATO, (D) DDR&E MEMO, 6 MAR 73,
ELECTRONIC WARE CLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE POLICY;
(E) DDR&E MEMO, 25 SEP 73, NATO ELECTRONIC-WARFARE
RELEASE POLICY

SUMMARY: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT EXCLUSION OF NATO FROM
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS (DOD/AOC)
ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) SYMPOSIA COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE LONG
TERM EFFECT ON NATO'S EFFORTS IN ELECTRONIC WARFARE. ACTION
REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY MARCH 15, 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE 1973 NATO PERSONNEL HAVE ATTENDED THE ANNUAL
DOD/AOC EW SYMPOSIUM. IN REF A WE REPORTED OUR CONCERN
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THAT REVERSAL OF THIS POLICY MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION
BY DOD/AOC. THE SYMPOSIA BENEFIT BOTH US AND NATO
ATTENDERS, ESPECIALLY BY PROVIDING A GOVERNMENT-
SANCTIONED ENVIRONMENT FOR NATO-US INDUSTRY INTERACTION
AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE. THE VAST MAJORITY OF NATO EW
EQUIPMENT IS OF US MANUFACTURE, AND WE FORESEE A CONTINUATION
AND EVEN AN INCREASE IN THIS SITUATION SINCE NO SINGLE
NATO NATION IS ABLE TO FINANCE THE ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES
REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED IN
WIDEBAND POWER AMPLIFIERS AND COMPUTER-BASED WARNING

RECEIVERS. THUS, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, ELECTRONIC WARFARE WILL PROBABLY REMAIN A CONSPICUOUSLY WELL-TRAFFICKED "ONE-SAY STREEST." WE BELIEVE THAT HIS SITUATION CALLS FOR GREAT CAUTION TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF AN ATTEMPT TO PERPETUATE NATO DEPENDENCE ON US EW PRODUCTS. ANY OBVIOUS REDUCTION IN THE FLOW OF EW INFORMATION COULD BE SO INTERPRETED BY THE ALLIES.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOTIVATION TO EXCLUDE NATO AND ALLIED PERSONNEL IS BASED UPON A DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PRESENTATIONS GIVEN AT THE SUMPOSIA, AND THE BELIEF THAT NATO ATTENDANCE RESULTS IN DILUTED INFORMATION DUE TO SECURITY CONSTRAINTS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ATTENDANCE BY NATO PERSONNEL SHOULD, IN ANY WAY, INFLUENCE THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PRESENTED. REFS B THRU E DESCRIBE DOD NPOLICY IN RELEASE OF ELECTRONIC WARFARE INFORMATION TO NATO AND POSITIVELY ENCOURAGE THIS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY IN ALL PHASES OF EW EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION. SINCE NATO ATTENDANCE IS BY INVITATION ONLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS GROUP IS MORE THOROUGHLY SCREENED FOR NEED-TO-KNOW THAN ARE MOST US INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1404

SECDEF FOR ISA, ODDR&E

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CRITICISM OF THE NUMBER OF NATO ATTENDERS IS JUSTIFIED. APPROXIMATELY 64 NATO PERSONNEL ATTENDED THE 1976 SYMPOSIUM AND, WHILE NOT A LARGE NUMBER IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, IT IS SIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED WITH US GOVERNMENT (VICE US INDUSTRIAL) ATTENDANCE AND, WHEN VIEWED IN A CONTEXT OF SMALL NATIONAL POPULATIONS WITH LIMITED EW PERSONNEL, TIGHT TRAVEL BUDGETS AND CONFLICTING EW ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE. SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE THAT COMMENTS ON THE LACK OF NATO PAPERS ARE OVERLY CRITICAL. US TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERIENCE

ARE SO MUCH BEYOND THAT OF THE ALLIES THAT THERE IS ACTUALLY LITTLE AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO OFFER TO SUCH A SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE.

4. ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, WE BELIEVE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT IS OFFERED IN LIEU OF THE SYMPOSIA, THE ALLIES WILL RESENT THIS APPARENT REVERSAL IN US BEHAVIOR. IT FREQUENTLY APPEARS THAT ELECTRONIC WARFARE PROGRESS WITHIN NATO IS HAMPERED BY A PERVASIVE RELUCTANCE TO EXCHANGE MEANINGFUL INFORMATION IN OPEN FORA, AND THAT
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THE US ENCOURAGES THIS ATTITUDE BY HEAVY RELIANCE ON BILATERAL EXCHANGE IN EW MATTERS. REMOVAL OF THE DOD/AOC SYMPOSIUM COULD EXACERBATE THIS PROBLEM.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY IN EW HAS, THUS FAR, ADVANCED MORE THROUGH LACK OF ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM DESIGNS THAN BY CONSCIOUS EFFORT, YET MUTUAL INTERFERENCE FROM EXISTING ALLIED EW SYSTEMS COULD POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO NATO'S OWN ELECTRONIC SENSORS AND COMMAND/CONTROL SYSTEMS. THE DOD/AOC SYMPOSIA OFFER AN EXCELLENT MEDIUM FOR EXCHANGES CONCERNING OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL MEANS OF REDUCING INTERFERENCE, INCLUDING STANDARDIZED LOGIC, WAVEFORMS, TACTICS, ETC.

6. IF IT SHOULD BE DECIDED NOT TO INVITE NATO PERSONNEL TO FUTURE SYMPOSIA, WE ANTICIPATE INQUIRES FROM ALLIES AND WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY MARCH 15, 1977. SRRAUSZ-HUPE

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